Hurricane season is once again upon us in Florida. Experts predict the 2010 season will be extremely active one, posing significant danger for our communities. Consequently, it is vital that all Floridians adequately prepare for the possibility of a severe storm. With June 1 marking the start of the season, we must all ensure we take the necessary steps to be ready in the event of a hurricane.

Please visit http://www.floridadisaster.org for assistance regarding hurricane preparation. ☐ This site has a lot of helpful information on suggested amounts of food and water to keep on hand as well as tips for strengthening your home.

Below are some emergency numbers which may be helpful as you prepare for hurricane season:

- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Registration: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
 - State of Florida Emergency Information 24-hour hotline (FEIL): 1-800-342-3557
 - State Volunteer and Donations Hotline: 1-800-FL-HELP1 (1-800-354-3571)
- American Red Cross: 1-800-HELP-NOW (1-800-435-7669) or Assistance 1-866-Get Info (1-866-438-4636)
 - Elder Affairs: 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337)
 - Florida Power and Light: 1-800-4-OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243)
- Florida Department of Financial Services Hurricane Helpline: 1-800-22-STORM (1-800-227-8676)
 - Attorney General's McCollum's Gouging Hotline: 1-866-966-7226
- Agricultural and Consumer Services Price Gouging Hotline: 1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352)

Also, click <u>here</u> for contact information of local shelters and disaster resources available in Broward, Hendry, Martin, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties.

I have continued to work closely with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as with my

colleagues in Congress, to ensure that the necessary resources are in place to expeditiously respond to a natural disaster. In particular, I have continued to push for much-needed reform as it relates to prioritizing power restoration, debris removal, placing generators at gas stations, and ensuring temporary housing is available to those who are displaced.

Please feel free to call my Ft. Lauderdale office at 954-733-2800 or my West Palm Beach office at 561-881-9618 with any concerns or questions that you have regarding this hurricane season.